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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for managing access control lists in a filesystem, the method comprising:
  - associating two or more access control lists with a given filesystem object;
  - responsive to receiving, from a requestor, a request for an access control list associated with the given filesystem object, determining a filesystem type of the requestor; and
  - returning an access control list matching the filesystem type of the requestor.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - determining whether an access control list matching the filesystem type of the requestor exists; and
  - responsive to a determination that a matching access control list exists, returning the matching access control list.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of returning the matching access control list includes accessing the matching access control list using an access mechanism associated with the filesystem type of the requestor.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
  - responsive to a determination that a matching access control list does not exist, providing a new access

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control list for the filesystem type of the requestor;  
and

returning the new access control list.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of returning the new access control list includes accessing the new access control list using an access mechanism associated with the filesystem type of the requestor.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of providing a new access control list for the filesystem type of the requestor includes translating an existing access control list to the filesystem type of the requestor.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of providing a new access control list for the filesystem type of the requestor includes providing a default access control list for the filesystem type of the requestor based on rules associated with the filesystem.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of associating two or more access control lists with a given filesystem object includes storing the two or more access control lists in file storage with the given filesystem object.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of associating two or more access control lists with a given filesystem object includes storing a native access control list in file storage with the given filesystem

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object and storing one or more non-native access control lists in access control list storage separate from the file storage.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein an access control list storage is provided for each directory, each filesystem, or for each portion of a file system.

11. An apparatus for managing access control lists in a filesystem, the apparatus comprising:

- a filesystem, wherein the filesystem includes a plurality of access mechanisms and wherein each access mechanism of the plurality of access mechanisms is associated with a filesystem type; and

- a file storage, wherein the file storage has stored therein at least one filesystem object and wherein a given filesystem object within the at least one filesystem object has associated therewith two or more access control lists;

- wherein the filesystem, responsive to receiving from a requestor a request for an access control list associated with the given filesystem object, determines a filesystem type of the requestor and returns an access control list matching the filesystem type of the requestor.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the filesystem determines whether an access control list matching the filesystem type of the requestor exists and, responsive

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to a determination that a matching access control list exists, returns the matching access control list.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the filesystem accesses the matching access control list using an access mechanism within the plurality of access mechanisms associated with the filesystem type of the requestor.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the filesystem, responsive to a determination that a matching access control list does not exist, provides a new access control list for the filesystem type of the requestor and returns the new access control list.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the filesystem accesses the new access control list using an access mechanism associated with the filesystem type of the requestor.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the filesystem translating an existing access control list to the filesystem type of the requestor to form the new access control list.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the filesystem provides a default access control list for the filesystem type of the requestor based on rules associated with the filesystem.

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18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the filesystem stores the two or more access control lists in the file storage with the given filesystem object.

19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the filesystem stores a native access control list in the file storage with the given filesystem object, the apparatus further comprising:

an access control list storage, wherein the filesystem stores one or more non-native access control lists in access control list storage separate from the file storage.

20. A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for managing access control lists in a filesystem, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for associating two or more access control lists with a given filesystem object;

instructions, responsive to receiving from a requestor a request for an access control list associated with the given filesystem object, for determining a filesystem type of the requestor; and

instructions for returning an access control list matching the filesystem type of the requestor.